

# Using Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

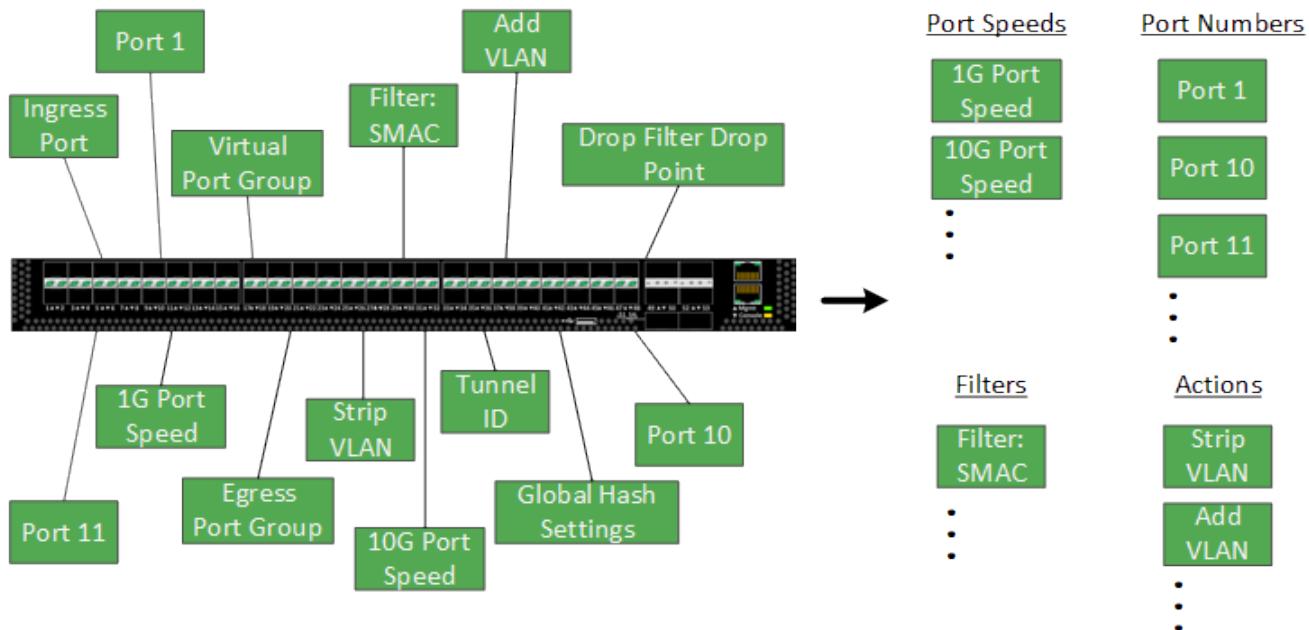
## To manage multiple devices

Garland Technology's **PacketMAX™ Advanced Aggregators** are very popular with customer's that have a lot of tapped network links or a lot of tools to distribute monitor traffic to. In large environment, multiple aggregators may be needed to consolidate the tapped traffic down to a management number of monitor links for tools. While the Advanced Aggregators have web-based management consoles, customers are often looking for a way to simplify the management of these devices, especially when multiple devices are in place.

There are two approaches to simplifying this management process: Creating a single-pane-of-class centralized management platform or making use of built-in Application Programming Interfaces or APIs.

With a centralized management platform, a dedicated web console will be used to connect into multiple devices at once, allowing the individual devices to be managed from one location. This will save time and reduce complexity in comparison to requiring administrators to log into each individual device to make changes. On the other hand, this does require customers to learn a completely new management system in addition to the other management systems their other tools are already using.

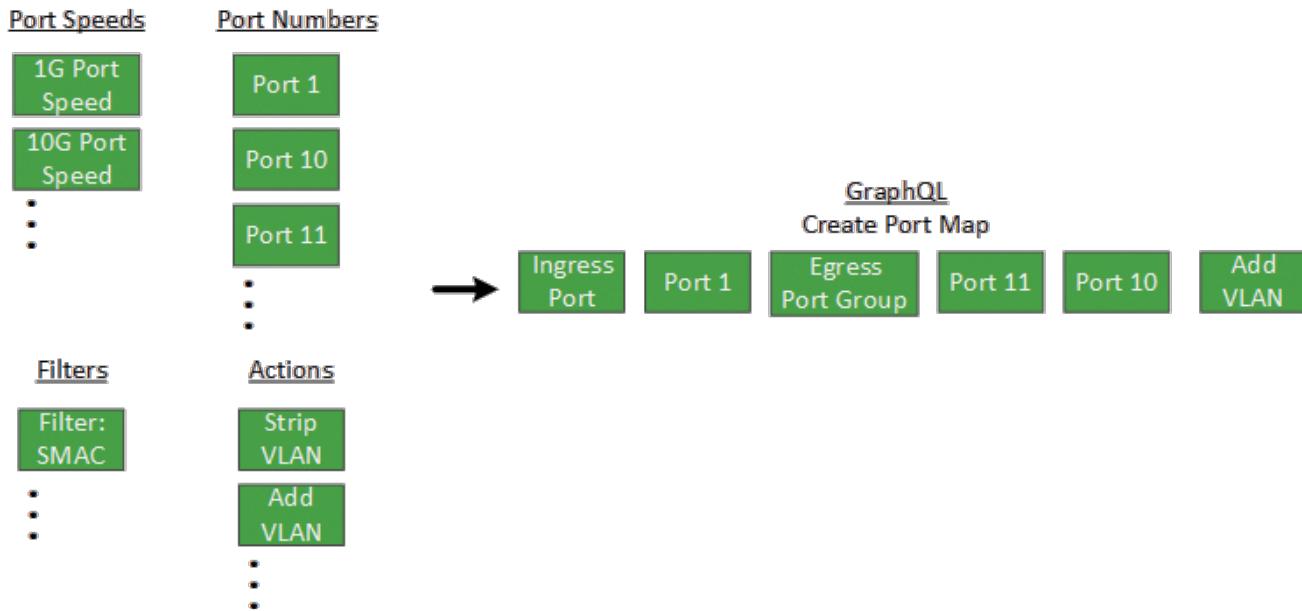
Another way to manage multiple appliances it to use APIs.



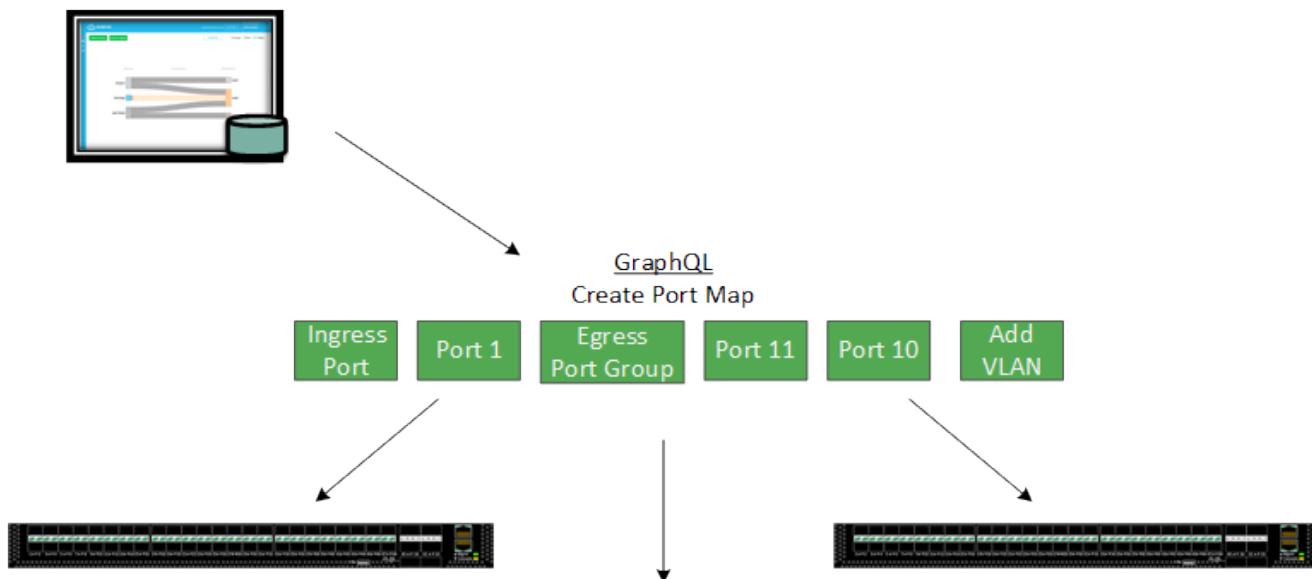
An API takes the features and capabilities of the Advanced Aggregator and makes them easily referenceable to developers that want to make use of them without having to learn and utilize the direct commands of the appliance's OS.

For API applications, the Advanced Aggregators use GraphQL. When a developer needs to remotely control one of the Advanced Aggregators, they'll be able to grab calls from multiple different features and organize them into a single command.

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A benefit to using API's is that you could potentially make use of a monitoring tool's existing centralized management platform to also manage the Advanced Aggregators. This could allow port maps and filters to be setup on multiple appliances without having to manually access or navigate through the Aggregator's web GUI.



For most use cases, the Advanced Aggregator will be a set-it-and-forget-it type of appliance. In these situations, the need to update or change port maps or filters will come from a change or the implementation of new tools. If this is the case, having the control to create exactly what you need on the Advanced Aggregator from the existing tool's web console would be far more beneficial than a dedicated centralized management console or using local management.